

RETURN

(91)

To an ADDRESS of the HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated April 3, 1901, for a Return showing copies of all memorials, replies thereto and correspondence between the Government of the North-west Territories, and any member thereof, and the Government of Canada, and any member thereof, on the subject of the financial status or constitutional status of the said North-west Territories.

R. W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT,
OTTAWA, CANADA, April 19, 1901.

The Under Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

I have the honour to return herewith address of the House of Commons of the 3rd instant for a return showing copies of all memorials, &c., on the subject of the financial and constitutional status of the North-west Territories, referred to the Minister of Finance for report in so far as the same related to his department.

I beg to inclose in reply thereto copies of all documents on the subject in this department, so far as I can find, viz.:—

1. Letter from the secretary of the Lieutenant Governor of the North-west Territories, dated December 19, 1888, forwarding copy of resolution passed by the legislative assembly of the North-west Territories on December 11, 1888, with reference to the amount voted annually by the Dominion parliament for the expenses of the North-west Territories, and the inclosures therewith. (F. D. file No. 4021.)

2. Letter from the secretary of the Lieutenant Governor of the North-west Territories, dated February 2, 1892, transmitting copy of resolution adopted by the legislative assembly on January 23, 1892, with regard to the annual appropriation made by the parliament of Canada for the government of the territories, and inclosures therewith. (F. D. file No. 6786.)

J. M. COURTNEY,
Deputy Minister of Finance.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES, CANADA,
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
REGINA, December 19, 1888.

The Under Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

I have the honour, in the absence of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, to forward herewith to your department for submission to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, copy of a resolution passed by the legislative assembly of the

1 EDWARD VII., A. 1901

North-west Territories on Tuesday, December 11 instant, with reference to the amount voted annually by the Dominion parliament for the expenses of the North-west Territories.

R. B. GORDON,
Lieut. Governor's Secretary.

Copy of Report of Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly of the North-west Territories appointed to consider the Financial Arrangements between the Territories and the Dominion Government, adopted by the Assembly on Tuesday, 11th December, 1888.

That the amount annually voted by the Dominion parliament for the expenses of government, etc., in the North-west Territories should be given in the form of a definite grant instead of a rate which lapses at the end of the fiscal year for which it is voted.

That the said grant should be placed at the disposal and subject to the vote of the North-west legislative assembly.

That although the North-west Territories have not been admitted into confederation as a province, yet they consider that the fact of their paying taxes to the federal treasury under the same laws, rules and regulations and provisions as the people of other parts of Canada, and having been called upon to exercise the functions of local self-government by the parliament of Canada, they are entitled to receive a return on the amount paid by them into the federal treasury of a sum similar to that received by the various provinces comprising the Canadian confederation.

That they consider that a greater proportion of taxation per head is paid by the people of the North-west Territories than the people of any other part of Canada.

That the cost of administering the government of the North-west Territories is much larger in proportion to the population than in any other part of Canada by reason of the greater area and more widely scattered settlements. .

That the maintenance and improvement of main trails in the territories should be the subject of special consideration at the hands of the federal parliament.

That inasmuch as the lands, timber and minerals of the North-west Territories are held for sale by the federal government, which deprives the North-west government of any revenue from these sources, and the provinces of confederation with the exception of Manitoba having revenues from such sources,

Therefore, your committee are strongly of opinion that a largely increased grant should be given to the North-west Territories for expenses of the North-west government, construction of roads and bridges, the improvement of main trails and other public improvements.

Certified, R. B. GORDON,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
REGINA, N.W.T., February 2, 1892.

Private Secretary to
The Honourable Minister of Finance,
Ottawa.

I am directed by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of the North-west Territories to transmit you herewith, for submission to the Honourable the Minister of Finance, copy of resolutions adopted by the legislative assembly on Saturday, January 23, 1892, with regard to the annual appropriation made by the parliament of Canada for the government of the territories.

R. B. GORDON,
Secretary to Lieut. Governor.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 91

COPY of Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the North-west Territories on Saturday, January 23, 1892.

Resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor praying that he will cause to be transmitted to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable the Minister of Finance and the Honourable the Minister of the Interior copy of the resolution regarding the finances of the territories adopted by this House.

Certified a true copy,

R. B. GORDON,
Clerk, Legislative Assembly,
N.W.T.

COPY of Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of The North-west Territories January 23, 1892.

1. Resolved, That the necessities of local government in the North-west Territories demand that instead of the annual vote by the parliament of Canada of an indefinite sum, for expenses of government, a fixed amount in the nature of a subsidy should be granted to the territories, the amount of which should be determined with a view to the considerations hereinafter recited.

2. That owing to the rapid increase of the population in the North-west, the amount of subsidy should be fixed for a term of not more than four years, when, as in the province of Manitoba in the earlier period of its existence, another territorial census should be taken.

3. That the population of the territories, according to the last census return, is 67,500, and that according to the known rate of increase in the past, and the still greater increase certain to accrue in the near future, as a result of the completion of the railway projects now in hand, the present population may be expected to largely increase in the said term of four years.

4. That in this case an estimated population of 125,000 would be a fair basis of calculation regarding subsidy for the proposed term.

5. That with an estimated population of 125,000 the subsidy at the rate of 80 cents a head, as allowed the provinces, would amount to \$100,000.

6. That on debt account the territories are entitled to five per cent interest on \$27.77 per head on an actual population of 67,500, which would amount to \$93,723.75.

7. That the specific grant for governmental purposes should be at least as liberal as that made to Manitoba, that is to say, \$50,000.

8. That, as Manitoba has been held to be entitled to a specific grant on account of lack of lands, the territories are entitled to a like grant in consideration of their special circumstances, some of which are as follows:—

(1.) Owing to the vast area of the territories, and the widely scattered nature of the settlement, all the business of the local government is rendered more expensive proportionately to population than in any of the provinces.

(2.) That as the parliament of Canada retains the control of the public lands, grass, timber and minerals of the territories, and derives revenue therefrom, it has a direct financial interest in good government and public improvements in the territories, as it has not in any of the provinces, except Manitoba, and therefore, so long as it retains such control should pay more proportionately to the support of the local government of the Territories than to that of any of the provinces, in whose local government or improvements it has no such direct financial interest.

(3.) The more important of these local enterprises or improvements are the improvement of roads and trails, the preservation and increase of the water supply, protection from prairie or forest fires in all parts of the territories; and the opening up and improvement of trade routes into the vast and as yet almost unknown northern interior, which comprises about one-third of the area of the whole Dominion.

1 EDWARD VII., A. 1901

For the foregoing reasons, a specific annual grant for the four years term should be made to the amount of \$125,000.

9. That the circumstances of the territories require a census to be taken every four years.

10. That, as above recited, the territories are entitled to a total annual subsidy from the parliament of Canada, for the four years next ensuing, of \$368,723.75.

11. That the amount voted by the parliament of Canada for expenses of government in the North-west Territories for the current year is \$217,000, which, with the sums appropriated for registration purposes, members' indemnity, clerks' salary and other matters properly chargeable to provincial account, makes a total subsidy of \$232,410 for the current year, as against a vote of \$20,000 for expenses of government in 1882.

12. That, as the yearly increase in the amount of the vote has been based on the yearly increasing needs of the country, the fixed amount asked is probably not as great as would be reached during the proposed term of four years under the present system.

13. That at the same time it would be an advantage to the territories to have the grant made in the manner specified. At the present time, as the grant lapses from year to year, there is not the same inducement to economical expenditure, as would exist, could the savings of one year be carried forward to the next.

Under the present system, public improvements are confined to works of a minor character, partly because the amount of the grant is kept so close to the barest needs of the country; and partly because it is impossible, owing to uncertainty as to amount of the grant from year to year, to undertake work such as cannot be completed out of the grant of the single year; and, as a consequence, works of the most pressing necessity are left undone, while the funds are being annually expended on works of minor importance.

14. That, owing to the fact that the parliament of Canada has seen fit to reduce for the current year the amount of its annual grant in aid of public education in the North-west below the requirements of the schools already, or about to be, established according to the terms of the school ordinance passed by this assembly, it becomes necessary to specially set forth the advisability of continuing such annual grant either as a special grant for education or as a part of the total grant for expenses of local government proportioned as hitherto to the conditions peculiar to the territories and their constantly increasing necessities, resulting from increase of population.

15. That the absolute necessity of adequate provision for the education of children resident in the territories rests mainly on two grounds:

(1.) That such provision is a powerful immigration attraction to intelligent and educated people, who are the most desirable settlers, and

(2.) That it is the most powerful agency in bringing the whole future population of the territories up to a high standard of intelligence, and therefore of ability to make the most of their surroundings.

16. That the conditions prevailing in the North-west which absolutely prevent the possibility of establishing an entirely self-supporting system of education throughout the territories are:—

(1.) The comparatively low assessable value of the land held by the settlers.

(2.) The still lower assessable value of the large areas of unimproved land held by speculators.

(3.) The comparatively small amount of assessable personal property held by new settlers, who form a very large proportion of the whole taxable population.

17. That these difficulties are incidental to the settlement of any new country and will have to be met in a greater or less extent as this country fills up more or less rapidly, until it is so filled up that it ceases to be a new country.

18. That besides and above these difficulties is the very much greater difficulty accruing from the necessarily scattered nature of settlement, whereby in any case only a small amount of taxable property is found within any school district outside of towns.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 91

This difficulty is due mainly to the policy embodied in the Dominion Lands Act, whereby every alternate square mile of land throughout the territories is absolutely reserved from settlement.

19. That this assembly maintains that when in the pursuance of its land policy the parliament of Canada legislates in such a way that the schools of the North-west are absolutely prevented from being self-supporting, a moral obligation is incurred to meet the deficiency in school revenue so created.

20. That the assembly further maintains that of the lands reserved from homesteading, as above mentioned, two sections in every township, or some six million acres in all, in the organized districts of the territories are held reserved for the purpose of providing aid to schools, and that the parliament which holds such an immense amount of land reserved ostensibly for school purposes cannot justly ignore the need of aid felt by the schools of the territories as the present time.

21. That the school system of the North-west has been built up on the strength of the certainty that parliament would fully recognize the school necessities of the North-west and its own obligation to meet those necessities by an adequate annual grant.

22. That if this grant is not continued with a view to fully meet the school necessities of the territories, it will become necessary to restrict the operations of the school system within such narrow limits as to materially injure the present population and to withdraw one of the greatest attractions tending to increase that population and render productive this vast country.

23. That there are in the represented portions of the territories a certain number of schools which are entirely non-self-supporting, and these schools have hitherto received aid from the general vote for schools in the territories.

24. That \$5,000 of the moneys voted by parliament for schools in the territories have been withdrawn for school purposes in unrepresented territory.

25. That the existence of such schools in represented territory imposes a further claim upon the inadequate amount already granted for schools.

Certified a true copy,

R. B. GORDON,
Clerk Legislative Assembly, North-west Territories.

FROM DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OTTAWA, April 18, 1901.

JOSEPH POPE, Esq.,
Under Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

I have the honour to return herewith the address of the House of Commons and your reference thereof, No. 67, together with the return called for by such address, being:—

'All memorials, etc., on the subject of the financial and constitutional status of the North-west Territories.'

It will be observed that the return now transmitted is made up largely by returns of a similar character already sent down to the House (Sessional Papers, June 4, 1897; April 24, 1900; and October 1, 1896), which were procured from the Sessional Records Office, House of Commons, to save re-copying, and on condition that they were restored safely to that office. The balance of the return is made up by copies of the latest correspondence, which have been added to complete the return.

JAS. A. SMART,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

1 EDWARD VII., A. 1901

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES OF CANADA, TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

REGINA, December 28, 1899.

The Honourable

The Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Ont.

In accordance with the usual custom I have the honour to make certain representations to you with respect to the amount estimated to be required by the government of the North-west Territories to carry on the public services devolving upon it during the federal fiscal year 1900-1901.

On January 14 last, my predecessor in office submitted to you detailed estimates, supporting them with a letter setting forth at some length, the general necessities of the country, to satisfy which it was estimated that a sum of \$535,000 would be required for the year 1899-1900. As against that amount the sum of \$282,979 was all that was placed in the estimates submitted to parliament. It is true that in addition to the amount so appropriated this government had available the sum of \$71,745.55 brought over as an unexpired balance from the previous year, and also the local revenues which have so far, amounted to the sum of \$41,989.95 during the year. To these items must be added the sum of \$17,624, being the amount of accrued interest on the Territorial School Lands Funds. So that altogether there has been available the following sums:—

On hand from 1898.....	\$ 71,745 55
Dominion grant	282,979 00
Interest on School Lands Funds.....	17,624 00
Local revenues to date.....	41,989 95
Or a total of.....	\$414,338 50

In the month of April, before the spring opened, the legislative assembly appropriated amounts aggregating the sum of \$413,625.73 for the services of the year, this sum being within the then estimated revenue. A very large part of the contemplated expenditure was upon two services, namely, public works and education. For the first of these, the sum of \$136,000 was appropriated, and the sum of \$158,000 for the second. The sum of \$136,000 did not take into contemplation the cost of any works which it was proposed to throw upon the people themselves through the local improvement organizations. Even then, a very large amount of work imperatively calling for attention could not receive consideration. You are no doubt aware that an unusual amount of rain fell during the spring and early summer, and the resulting floods carried away or destroyed bridges, roads and other public works upon which the people of many districts depended for means of transportation. On this account it was found necessary to incur unforeseen expenditures for repairs amounting to about \$15,000, which reduced the amount available for new works and increased the claims upon the government by that amount.

In connection with the expenditure upon public works I would take this opportunity of stating that during the past two years we have been engaged in organizing the settled portions of the territories under the Local Improvement Ordinance. At this time of writing we have 433 districts organized, but in the month of July (when the work of the districts is usually done) only 383 were in operation. The people residing in these 383 districts assessed themselves for the sum of \$83,326.59, all of which is available for the construction of public works in addition to whatever money may be expended by the government. By means of this organization the following works, amongst others, were done during the year:—

Miles of roadway or fireguards graded or cleared.....	2,452
Bridges and culverts built or repaired.....	835
Dams for the storage of water built or repaired.....	81
Sloughs and other impassable holes filled.....	1,767
Yards of corduroy completed.....	3,787

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 91

These figures are quoted to emphasize the fact that the people of the Territories are not looking to the government to provide them with such works, but are bearing a fair share of the cost of developing the country themselves.

With respect to education the position is almost analogous, and from the treasury point of view the result is the same. In the year 1896 an attempt was made, by the rearrangement of the grants paid to assist school districts, to induce greater efficiency in the schools of the country. This opportunity was taken advantage of to somewhat reduce the grants, but the result of the change has been, by leading the rural schools to keep open for longer periods, and in other ways, to so increase their grant-earning power that the reduction made is not now noticeable. The unusually open fall and mildness of the winter hitherto has also tended in the direction of extraordinary and unforeseen expenditure. Of 284 rural schools which were in operation in 1898 there are 154 which have been kept open until the Christmas holidays. The great bulk of these schools closed last year during the month of October, and all were closed before the middle of November. This year hardly a single school closed before November was well advanced, and, as I have stated, more than half remained open as long as the law permitted them to do. As we pay, practically, a per diem rate, and our calculations were not based upon the months of November and December being the two finest months of the year, you can understand how our estimate for education is going to prove short of actual requirements.

For the year 1900 there are now ninety more school districts to be taken into consideration on January 1 than were organized on the same date of this year, an increase of practically 20 per cent in the number of schools. This, of course, does not mean an increase of 20 per cent in our school expenditure, but it will fully bear out the anticipations referred to in the correspondence had respecting the Dominion grant to the Territories for 1899-1900.

I do not intend to go into extended details upon the manner in which we propose to expend the parliamentary grant for next year. The services we are undertaking are all well known to you, and I believe that the Dominion government appreciates the manner in which our work has been done. At any rate, we are justified in so concluding from the confidence placed in some of our departmental officials by entrusting them, from time to time, with the expenditure of Dominion funds for various purposes. I will, therefore, content myself with saying that our requirements for 1900-1901 are greater than they were for 1899-1900. We estimate no increase in the cost of any other service than public works and education, and we estimate that these two services alone will next year require the expenditure of at least \$65,000 more than we estimated for the current year. In other words, in order to keep pace with the requirements of the country, which are almost entirely due to advancing settlement, we will require to have at our disposal a sum of \$600,000 for next year. Apart from the Dominion grant we are likely only to have about \$40,000 from local sources, and I, therefore, have the honour to request that the Dominion government may be moved to increase the amount of the 'grant to schools, clerical assistance, printing, &c.,' from \$282,979 to \$560,000. In order to support this request I attach hereto a copy of the detailed estimates submitted in January last, together with copies of the letter which accompanied them, and that which was written in reply to your notification that parliament had not been asked to make any increase in the grant for 1899-1900.

J. H. ROSS.

1 EDWARD VII., A. 1901

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES OF CANADA,
TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

REGINA, December 27, 1900. —

The Honourable,
The Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

I have the honour to submit herewith a statement of the amount estimated to be required for the purposes of the legislative assembly of the North-west Territories during the calendar year 1901 (which coincides with our financial year) with such remarks as offer themselves. The amounts are as follows:—

Civil government	\$50,000 00
Legislation	30,000 00
Administration of civil justice and ordinances	15,000 00
Public works	250,000 00
Education	210,000 00
Agriculture and statistics	25,000 00
Hospitals, charities and public health	15,000 00
Miscellaneous services not grouped above	5,000 00
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	\$600,000 00
Civil Government	50,000 00

The amount asked for civil government is based upon the actual expenditures of the past two years. In 1899 the amount expended was \$46,103.15. The books for 1900 are not yet closed but the expenditure has been on a very similar basis. Some small additions to the public service are required and an amount to provide for them is asked for.

LEGISLATION

\$30,000 00

Similar remarks to the foregoing are offered. The amount expended last year was \$29,792.26, and the services are practically the same from year to year.

ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE AND ORDINANCES, \$15,000 00

The attention of the government has on several occasions been directed to the fact that it has been found necessary to establish a department here charged with the administration of such legal matters as come within the province of the legislative assembly.

The Territorial Attorney General's Department, it is submitted, might well be entrusted with the oversight of such legal matters as have hitherto been retained at Ottawa. Reference is made to the two matters of the administration of criminal justice and the oversight of the system of land titles registration. An organization is now in existence which can successfully administer criminal justice in the territories, alongside its present duty of administering civil justice and such of our ordinances as prescribe penalties for their infraction. The fact that the legislative assembly has been empowered to legislate with respect to 'property and civil rights' whilst the federal parliament retains control of legislation with respect to titles to land, does not tend to uniform or practical action. These matters are not pressed here beyond stating that if the Dominion government will place at the disposal of the legislative assembly the funds which have been found necessary to carry on these services from Ottawa, the government of the territories is prepared to undertake the work.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 91

PUBLIC WORKS..... \$250,000 00

The people of the Territories, through the local improvement district organization, are now doing, to a large and ever increasing extent, the works which this government used to be called upon to perform in earlier days. The ordinary road work in the closer settlements is almost entirely carried on in this manner. The outlying and newer districts being opened up by immigration still call for considerable expenditures out of the public funds in order to permit of transportation to market points.

The excessive and unusual rainfall of the past two summers has shown that several districts in Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan require the construction of some extensive drainage systems to enable main roads to be travelled, in addition to the expenditure of a considerable sum in providing smaller drains. Surveys have already been completed for larger drains at points east of Fort Saskatchewan, near Morinville, and near Edmonton in Northern Alberta, and at Red Deer Creek in the Prince Albert district. The completion of these drains alone is estimated to involve an expenditure of \$27,000.

In a comparatively large portion of the settled part of the territories the roadways laid down by the Dominion land system of surveys furnish ample facilities for transportation without any very serious engineering difficulties. But it can be readily understood that wherever river valleys occur, with their deep impassable ravines, or—as in the western portion of Alberta particularly—the country entirely loses its general level character, the straight due north and south or east and west road allowances cannot be followed.

Until settlement closes up this fact does not occasion much trouble or inconvenience. Prairie trails, though often circuitous, are easily made where the country is at all level, and it is only when a homestead or two is fenced in that it is found that a road has been closed which up to that time had been in general use, and which possibly is the only practicable road for many miles. Within the past two years—entirely due to the extraordinary rapid increase of settlement—an almost incredible number of public difficulties have been created owing to the simple fact that roads accurately plotted on paper cannot be put to general use. They either run through lakes or rivers, or cross hills or valleys, and, as the government survey is the prime cause of trouble, it is the government that is looked to for a solution of the difficulty. The only way this matter can be dealt with is by diverting the existing road allowances where possible, or by the provision of new roads. Selecting the cases which are needed to meet the pressing needs of extending settlement, which are but a small part of those known to be the cause of much local trouble, it is quite evident that we will need to keep at least five surveyors employed during next season. This of itself will, at a most moderate computation, involve an expenditure of \$10,000. The completion of these surveys will, judging from past experience, call for the acquirement of right of way across at least 600 quarter sections within which compensation will have to be paid. At the low average of \$20 each an additional expenditure of \$12,000 will be thereby incurred. At the present time we have now outstanding and in process of adjustment some 2,000 cases in which compensation must be paid for right of way for roads surveyed up to date, and the settlement of these cases will necessitate a further expenditure of \$50,000.

For a number of years back this government has been making expenditures in an attempt to conserve the surface water supply in many parts of Eastern Assiniboia, where efforts to obtain a more satisfactory water supply have failed. We now find it necessary, in the public interest, to survey and acquire title to the lands flooded by the more important dams so constructed. These surveys and payments for land will involve a further expenditure of \$5,000.

The foregoing amounts may seem large, but I can assure you that they are all most urgently required and they are but supplementary to the ordinary expenditures upon public works necessitated by incoming settlers

1 EDWARD VII., A. 1901

EDUCATION \$210,000 00

During the year just closed we have expended \$168,172.03, for grants to schools on the basis of our ordinance, \$16,201.83 for training of teachers, inspection of schools, examination and other work incidental to our educational system, and \$3,217.85 for the education and maintenance of our deaf and dumb children in the Manitoba institution, making a total expenditure of \$187,591.71 under this heading. Petitions were received during the year for the erection of 99 new school districts of which 49 have been erected and 50 are in process of erection. The heavy immigration of the past two or three years is now commencing to affect our education system, and we are looking forward to a much more rapid rate of increase in expenditure on this account than has hitherto obtained.

AGRICULTURE AND STATISTICS \$25,000 00

The above amount in no way compares with the importance of the subjects to which it is proposed to apply it. The amount asked for is but small, but it is recognized that the Dominion is making considerable expenditure upon agricultural matters in the territories, and it is only contemplated to engage in such works as are of local importance and are not covered by Dominion efforts.

HOSPITALS CHARITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH \$15,000 00

MISCELLANEOUS AND AT PRESENT UNFORE-
SEEN EXPENSES 5,000 00

It is thought that nothing need be said to support the request for these amounts. The grants to hospitals are very small, smaller, it has been ascertained, than are given by any provincial government proportionately to the work done. We have certain charitable expenditures to make continually, and the public health must be maintained. Every year we find there are services to be undertaken which do not group themselves under the regular headings and an amount is asked to provide for them.

I have, therefore, on behalf of the government of the North-west Territories, to request that parliament may be asked to provide a sum sufficient to carry on the services we will be called upon to undertake during the calendar year 1901, upon the basis of the estimates herewith submitted.

J. H. ROSS,
Territorial Treasurer.

MEMORIAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

(1.) Whereas by the British North America Act, 1867, it was (amongst other things) enacted that it should be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, on address from the Houses of the Parliament of Canada, to admit Rupert's Land and the North-west Territory, or either of them, into the union on such terms and conditions in each case as should be in the addresses expressed and as the Queen should think fit to approve subject to the provisions of the said Act;

(2.) And whereas by an address from the Houses of the Parliament of Canada, Her Majesty was prayed to unite Rupert's Land and the North-west Territory with the Dominion of Canada;

(3.) And whereas, in order to further the petition of the parliament of Canada Her Majesty, under the authority of the Rupert's Land Act, 1868, accepted a surrender from the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, of all the lands, territories, rights, privileges, liberties, franchises, powers and authorities whatsoever granted or purported to be granted by certain letters patent therein recited to the said Company in Rupert's Land;

(4.) And whereas in the said address it was represented to Her Majesty, as a reason for the extension of the Dominion of Canada westward, that the welfare of the population of these territories would be materially enhanced by the formation therein

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 91

of political institutions bearing analogy, as far as circumstances will admit, to those which existed in the several provinces then forming the Dominion;

(5.) And whereas the House of the Parliament of Canada by their said address expressed to Her Majesty their willingness to assume the duties and obligations of government and legislation as regards these territories;

(6.) And whereas in pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in the Queen by the aforesaid Act, Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her most Honourable Privy Council, ordered and declared that from and after the fifteenth day of July, 1870, Rupert's Land and the North-west Territory should be admitted into and become part of the Dominion of Canada, and granted power and authority to the parliament of Canada to legislate for the future welfare and good government of these territories;

(7.) And whereas by the British North America Act, 1871, the parliament of Canada was further given power from time to time to make provision for the administration, peace, order and good government of any territory not for the time being included in any province:

(8.) And whereas under the several authorities so given the parliament of Canada has created political institutions in these territories bearing a close analogy to those which exist in the several provinces of the Dominion:

(9.) And whereas by the confederation compact the provinces which formed the Dominion on the fifteenth day of July, 1870, were furnished with the means of carrying on local self-government upon certain well defined bases;

(10.) And whereas the territories, being an integral part of the Dominion, and having had imposed upon them the duties and obligations incidental to the political institutions which have been given to them and which said duties and obligations the parliament of Canada has declared its willingness to assume, are entitled to such federal assistance for their maintenance as will bear due proportion and analogy to that given to other portions of the Dominion for similar purposes:

(11.) And whereas repeated representations have been made in various ways to the government of Canada with a view to obtaining just and equitable financial assistance towards providing for the proper and effective administration of local affairs in the Territories and for the public necessities of their rapidly increasing population:

(12.) And whereas such representations have been met by intermittent and insufficient additions to the annual grant, the provision so made by the parliament of Canada never bearing any adequate proportion to the financial obligations imposed by the enlargement and development of the political institutions created by itself:

(13.) And whereas it is desirable that a basis should be established upon which the claims of the territories to suitable financial recognition may be settled and agreed upon:

(14.) Therefore be it resolved that an humble address to His Excellency the Governor General be adopted by this House praying him that he will be pleased to cause the fullest inquiry to be made into the position of the territories, financial and otherwise, and to cause such action to be taken as will provide for their present and immediate welfare and good government, as well as the due fulfilment of the duties and obligations of government and legislation assumed, with respect to these territories, by the parliament of Canada:

(15.) And be it further resolved that, whereas by the British North America Act 1871, it was amongst other things enacted that the parliament of Canada may from time to time establish new provinces in any territories forming for the time being part of the Dominion of Canada but not included in any province thereof, and may, at the time of such establishment, make provision for the constitution and administration of

* * * such province, His Excellency be also prayed to order inquiries to be made and accounts taken with a view to the settlement of the terms and conditions upon which the territories or any part thereof shall be established as a province, and that before any such province is established opportunity should be given to the people of the territories through their accredited representatives of considering and discussing such terms and conditions.

1 EDWARD VII., A. 1901

OTTAWA, January 30, 1901.

The Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

Following up the discussion between you, Mr. Ross and myself, on the subject of the North-west Assembly Memorial of the 2nd May last, I now beg, agreeably to your request, to make a further statement in writing.

The memorial while leading to definite constitutional changes, approaches the subject from the financial point of view and points out how, in the opinion of the legislature, our legislative jurisdiction and administrative responsibilities have been enlarged and increased out of all proportion to the means placed at our disposal. I need not enlarge on this side of the question, as it has already been placed very fully before you in the financial statements furnished to you for the past two years by my colleague Mr. Ross. While financial embarrassments rather than constitutional aspirations have led the North-west government and legislature to discuss the provincial status, I think that sufficient practical reasons can be given for the early establishment of provincial institutions in the west. We have a rapidly growing population, much larger, as the census will show, than that of British Columbia ten years ago, and than that of P. E. Island to-day; a population trained to the exercise of powers of self-government falling a little short only of those enjoyed by the provinces. For nearly thirteen years the North-west legislative assembly has been occupied with founding local institutions and a body of laws suitable to the condition and circumstances of the country. Our parliamentary vote is apparently incapable of expansion at all in proportion to the needs of a rapidly developing country and our powers circumscribed as they are by the necessities of our present anomalous constitutional position fall short just at the point where further progress demands their exercise. The territories have arrived at a point, where by reason of their population and material development the larger powers and larger income of a province have become necessary. I have already in former communications pointed out to you how our limited powers are still more limited by the reservation of subjects such as the land titles law, the administration of the criminal law and the control of the public domain. It is undoubtedly in the interest of any province or provinces hereafter to be established, that the important questions surrounding the subject of the public domain should be settled at once, and before any more of the public lands of the territories are alienated from the Crown.

For these and other reasons which need not be advanced at length, I would ask you to urge the earliest possible action on the part of the government on the lines suggested and with the object proposed by the assembly memorial.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OTTAWA, March 21, 1901.

Hon F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, Assa.

Referring to your communication of the 30th of January, and the conversations which I had with yourself and Mr. Ross in Ottawa, I may say that I realize very fully the difficulties of the position in which the government and legislative assembly of the North-west Territories is placed, and I admit that there is very much in the suggestions which are made in your letter and in the memorial regarding the necessity of a change in the constitutional and financial position of the territories.

Without at the present moment committing myself to any positive statement, I am prepared to say that the time has arrived when the question of organizing the territories on the provincial basis ought to be the subject of full consideration. It would

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 91

appear to me that the better way of bringing the matter to a more definite position would be to arrange for a conference upon the subject between the representatives of your government and a committee of council representing the federal government. I shall be pleased to bring about arrangements for such a conference at any time that is mutually convenient.

CLIFFORD SIFTON

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
REGINA, March 30, 1901.

The Honourable CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

I duly received your letter of the 21st instant, from which I was pleased to learn that you are of opinion that the time has arrived when the question of organizing the Territories on the provincial basis ought to be the subject of full consideration, and I will be glad to arrange for a conference upon the subject between representatives of the Territorial government and the Privy Council at the earliest date convenient to you. The legislative assembly has been summoned for the second day of May and, while it would be impossible for us to be absent during the six weeks following that date, I think that it would be well that the discussion should be advanced as far as possible before the legislature meets.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Attorney General.DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OTTAWA, April 5, 1901.

Hon. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
Regina, Assa.

I have your letter of the 30th ultimo. I regret to say that with every desire to advance the discussion of matters relating to the status of the territories, I fear that it will be totally impossible for us to have a meeting before your legislature assembles. The latter portion of the session of parliament here finds all the members of the government extremely busy, and it would be hopeless to expect from them that mature and careful consideration of the various and important subjects which will require to be debated and settled in connection with the establishment of the territories as a province or upon a provincial basis. I think I shall therefore be compelled to ask you to defer the discussion until after parliament has prorogued.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD SIFTON.